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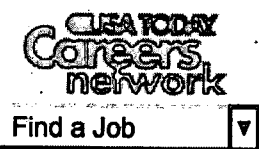
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06/30/02 - Posted 12:07:30 AM from the Daily Record newsroom

Wharton offered Superfund site

Borough hall, DPW facility envisioned after cleanup
By Michael Daigle, Daily Record

WHARTON - The former L.E Carpenter site on North Main Street, home to an envied two decades of cleanup efforts, has been offered to the borough for use as a ne

Mayor William Chegwidden said last week that the owners of the former manufactur the federal Superfund list for priority cleanup since 1987, offered to give the 14-acre its federally mandated cleanup is completed.

He said a proposed change in remediation plans has been submitted to the state Depa Protection in an effort to speed up the cleanup.

"This is a good deal for us," Chegwidden said. The plans will be discussed with all p

Chegwidden said the offer from PolyOne Corp. of Ohio could give the borough a ch at once, getting larger municipal quarters and more space for its police and rescue sq traffic and recreation needs.

The municipal developments could be paid for by the sale of 25 acres the borough ov Boulevard in the industrial park, Chegwidden said. That acreage has drawn interest i

A schematic plan drawn up by architects Cox, Kliever & Co. of Virginia shows a ne public works facility and a park with basketball and tennis courts. The new borough architecture of the former silk mill building across the street, a red brick building dor

The plans also show a new access road from North Main to East Dewey Avenue. Th recommended by a transportation consultant last year as the best way to divert traffic intersection and the borough's busy industrial park.

Resident Cheryl Manna, who has been critical of borough development plans in the i

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"It could revitalize business along Main Street and clean up that corner," she said.

The new access road to East Dewey could help unclutter the busy intersection at Nor she said.

Manna, who lives on West Dewey, was one of the residents of that street who protes warehouse complex nearby. She said the potential for development at the Carpenter community-oriented.

Rino DePiano, owner of Maria's Pizzeria and Restaurant on North Main, just a few h Carpenter site, was also enthusiastic.

"It sounds great. We need it," he said.

De Piano said that he's been at his location for 17 years and the North Main Street an development of the Carpenter site would help a lot.

Councilman Brian Gillen said he was surprised to hear the plans, but supported the ic plans. Gillen said the cleanup has been going on for too many years.

Mark Broadhurst, spokesman for Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-Harding, said the c Wharton site on his annual Superfund tour to bring attention to the slow progress of he would represent Frelinghuysen at a meeting July 10 on the new plans.

If the borough took over the Carpenter site, Chegwidden said, it likely would build a Main next to the existing industrial buildings, which would be used for public works

The borough has outgrown its municipal hall on Robert Street, which it shares with t Wharton's police department was expanded recently when it contracted to supply pol Mine Hill.

The borough also has outgrown its public works garage near Hugh Force Park, where outside, Chegwidden said.

Moving municipal government would give the police department more space in the I could become an emergency management center. The fire department is across the st

Some of the Carpenter property along the Rockaway River could become a park, Ch recreational facilities such as basketball and tennis courts and a roller rink that in the ice skating.

The access road from North Main would use part of the Carpenter site, skirting the a East Dewey and following a former railroad right-of-way. A new intersection would Corner," the sharp turn on North Main that separates the Carpenter site from an old s Washington Forge Pond.

The new road also would improve access to the Air Products site, which is for sale, C planning for it would include the current Port Oram Walkway, a paved path from De The path is a favorite of residents of Centennial Court, the borough's senior complex